

Serial No. 09/050,614
Amendment C

REMARKS

Independent claim 19 has been amended.

Independent claim 19 and dependent claim 20 remain in the application.

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested in light of these amendments and the remarks that follow.

As defined in amended claim 19, a carrier is secured to the processing container when outside the arcuate centrifuge channel. The carrier is shaped to maintain the processing container when outside the arcuate centrifuge channel in a rounded, flexed condition conforming to the arcuate centrifuge channel. The carrier limits deformation of the processing container during insertion into or removal from the arcuate centrifuge channel.

Claims 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based upon Brown et al in view of Schoendorfer (US 4,445,883). As there are three Brown et al documents of record, it is not clear which one is being relied upon. However, the applicant understands the Examiner's position to be that Brown et al shows an elongated processing container having a dimension measured about the rotational axis that is larger than a dimension measured along the rotational axis. The applicant agrees with that assessment and also agrees with the Examiner's assessment that Brown et al fails to specify a carrier. The applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's assessment of Schoendorfer. Schoendorfer does not teach or suggest a carrier secured to the processing container when outside the arcuate centrifuge channel, which is shaped to maintain the processing container when outside the arcuate centrifuge channel in a rounded, flexed condition conforming to the arcuate centrifuge channel. In Schoendorfer, the support 10 is mounted on a wall of a cassette 17, which is located inside the centrifuge. The software set is placed into the cassette and support inside the centrifuge. The cassette and support are not secured to the processing container when outside the arcuate centrifuge channel, and the cassette and support do not maintain the processing container when outside the arcuate centrifuge channel in a rounded, flexed condition conforming to the arcuate centrifuge channel (see col 5, lines 32 to 60). Schoendorfer is not concerned with solving the fundamental problem the amended claims address; namely, shaping an elongated flexible container when outside an arcuate centrifuge channel so that it can be reliably loaded into and out of the channel. Schoendorfer is only concerned with support when inside the channel. There is nothing in Schoendorfer to teach or suggest shaping an elongated processing container into a rounded flexed condition by securement to a carrier when outside a centrifuge channel, for insertion or removal as a unit into an arcuate separation channel. Indeed, Schoendorfer teaches away from the invention defined in the amended claims.

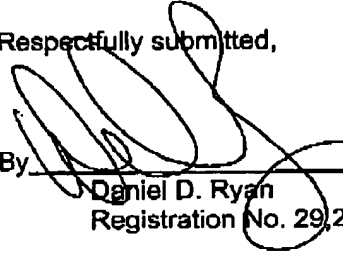
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For these reasons, applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the pending rejection of the claims.

Allowance of claims 19 and 20 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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